

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
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EUR/EE FOR SILINS

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EEWT, CVIS, CSCE, RO
SUBJECT: CONGRESSIONAL HEARING ON MFN/EMIGRATION: JEWISH EMIGRATION

REF: SILINS/VIETS LETTER DATED
JUNE 15, 1977

1. IN REPLYING TO CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRIES ASKING FOR EMBASSY OR DEPARTMENT INTERVENTION ON BEHALF OF ROMANIANS WISHING TO EMIGRATE TO ISRAEL, EMBASSY HAS BORROWED DEPARTMENT'S LANGUAGE ALMOST VERBATIM. WE SAY THAT, WHILE WE ARE MAKING A CONTINUING EFFORT TO REUNITE THOSE IN COUNTRIES WITH RESTRICTIVE EMIGRATION POLICIES WITH RELATIVES IN U.S., WE BELIEVE IT WOULD BE INAPPROPRIATE FOR EMBASSY TO INTERVENE FOR PERSONS EMIGRATING TO OTHER COUNTRIES AS WE HAVE NO WAY OF KNOWING WHETHER OR NOT THEY WILL BE ELIGIBLE FOR ADMITTANCE.

2. WE BELIEVE THIS APPROACH IS BASICALLY CORRECT ONE AND URGE STRONGLY THAT WE MAINTAIN IT. IN FIRST INSTANCE, WE WOULD MAKE SELF-EVIDENT POINT THAT QUESTION OF EMIGRATION FROM ROMANIA IS ONE WHICH IS PROPERLY DISCUSSED BETWEEN GOR AND COUNTRY CONCERNED, BOT BY THIRD COUNTRY. ISRAELI GOVERNMIT IS IN CONTINUOUS COMMUNICATION WITH
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ROMANIAN GOVERNMENT ON EMIGRATION MATTERS AND IS FULLY CAPABLE OF MAKING ITS OWN INTERVENTIONS, WHERE IT DETERMINES THESE ARE WARRANTED. WHILE ISRAELIS WOULD PRESUMABLY BE PLEASED TO HAVE US ASSUME PART OF THEIR BURDEN, THEY HAVE NOT SOLICITED OUR HELP.

3. SECONDLY, ALTHOUGH WE COULDN'T DOCUMENT IT, WE HAVE

TO ASSUME THAT THERE WOULD BE CERTAIN COST TO OUR ADOPTING ANY MORE ACTIVE ROLE ON PROSPECTIVE IMMIGRATION TO ISRAEL. RECORD OFFERS CLEAR PROOF THAT THERE ARE FINITE LIMITS TO ROMANIAN FLEXIBILITY IN EMIGRATION AREA. IF WE EXPEND ANY SUBSTANTIALLY GREATER PART OF OUR LIMITED INFLUENCE ON BEHALF OF SPECIFIC EMIGRANTS TO ISRAEL, WE CAN EXPECT THAT ROMANIANS MAY NOT BE AS FORTHCOMING ABOUT HUMANITARIAN CASES INVOLVING U.S. RESIDENTS. AS IT IS AMBASSADOR RARELY RAISES MFN WITHOUT TOUCHING ON BOTH US AND ISRAELI EMIGRATION ANGLES. ONCE ISRAELIS START SHARING SPECIFICS WITH US WE WOULD THEN BE PREPARED TO TAKE A NEW LOOK AT QUESTION.

4. BEYOND QUESTIONS OF OUR ROLE AND INFLUENCE, POTENTIAL EMBARRASSMENT OF INTERCEDING T BEHALF OF INDIVIDUALS UNQUALIFIEDFOR ADMISSION TO ISRAEL IS GENUINE CONCERN. AS CONFIRMED BY ISRAELI AMBASSADOR (PARA 2, BUCHAREST 4543), SMALL BUT NOT INSIGNIFICANT FRACTION OF APPLICANTS ARE THRUED DOWN BECAUSE OF FAILURE TO SATISFY STANDARDS IN LAW OF RETURN OR SECURITY CONSIDERATIONS. WE CAN HAVE NO WAY OF KNOWING BEFORE HAND WHETHER INDIVIDUALS UPON WHOSE BEHALF WE MIGHT INTERVENE MIGHT BE TURNED DOWN BY ISRAELI EMBASSY.
VSA ZJUK#
HAVE SHOWN THEMSELVES ALL TOO PREPARED TO SEIZE UPON REFUSALS OF THIS KIND.

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5. FINAL ARGUMENT IS THAT, DESPITE SPECIAL CONGRESSIONAL CONCERN ABOUT ISRAELI IMMIGRATION, WE DON'T SEE HOW WE COULD CONFINE OUR INTERVENTION TO APPLICANTS FOR ISRAEL. IF WE MAKE REPRESENTATIONS FOR PERSONS EMIGRATING TO ISRAEL, IT WILL SOON BECOME COMMON KNOWLEDGE HERE AS WELL AS IN U.S. AS CONSEQUENCE, WE COULD EXPECT CONSIDERABLE ADDITIONAL PRESSURE FOR USG INTERVENTIONS FROM THOSE WANTING TO GO TO OTHER COUNTRIES. CONSULAR SECTION ALREADY RECEIVES 10-12 REQUESTS EACH MONTH, BY CORRESPONDENCE

AND IN PERSON, FROM PEOPLE WANTING TO EMIGRATE TO ITALY, GERMANY, FRANCE AS WELL AS ISRAEL. ONCE WE START DOWN THIS ROUTE, WE WILL RAPIDLY DISSIPATE OUR LEVERAGE AND PUT A STRAIN ON OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS.

6. MAXIMUM WE THINK IS FEASIBLE IS TO CONTINUE OUR PRESENT PRACTICE OF REFERRING CONGRESSIONAL AND OTHER INQUIRIES TO ISRAELI EMBASSY AND IN SPECIAL SITUATIONS, SUCH AS OCCASIONALLY HAVE ARISEN IN PAST, TO FORWARD INFORMATION COPIESTO HEAD OF CONSULAR DIRECTORATE. WE PRESUME THAT OUR ISRAELI COLLEAGUES HERE ACCORD OUR REFERRALS PRIORITY CONSISTENT WITH INTERESTS OF THEIR

GOVERNMENT.

BARNES

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